

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder having a desired average particle size which comprises providing spray-thermally decomposing a mixed solution comprising (a) a raw material oxide powder comprising a glass network-forming element, said raw material powder having an average particle size which is not more than about 1/5 of said average particle size of said glass powder, and (b) an aqueous solution of a water-soluble compound comprising a different glass-forming element, wherein; identifying the amount of said raw material oxide powder based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the amount of said water-soluble compound calculated as an oxide (oxide-converted), the melting point of said glass powder and the average particle size of the raw material oxide powder; and spray-thermal decomposing the mixed solution by application of radiant heat at a decomposition temperature which is:

when the amount of said raw material oxide powder is less than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the amount of said water-soluble compound calculated as an oxide (oxide-converted), and the average particle size of said glass powder is more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said solid glass powder, the spray-thermal decomposition temperature is not less than the melting point of said glass powder plus about 50°C;

when the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder and is not less than the melting point of said glass powder plus about 20°C when the amount of said raw material oxide powder is less than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the amount of said water-soluble compound calculated as an oxide (oxide-converted) and the average particle size of said glass powder is not more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said solid

glass powder, the spray-thermal decomposition temperature is not less than the melting point of said glass powder plus about 20°C ~~the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is not more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder~~; and

when the amount of said raw material oxide powder is more than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, ~~the spray-thermal decomposition temperature is not less than the melting point of said glass powder plus about 30°C when and~~ the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder, ~~the spray-thermal decomposition temperature is not less than the melting point of said glass powder plus about 30°C; and~~

~~when and is not less than the melting point of said glass powder when the amount of said raw material oxide powder is more than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and~~ the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is not more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder, ~~the spray-thermal decomposition temperature is not less than the melting point of said glass powder and~~

~~wherein said mixed solution is heated by radiant heat.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble compound is at least one member selected from the group consisting of chloride, nitrate, acetate, sulfate and formate.

4. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 3, wherein the total of the concentration of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted concentration of said water-soluble compound is about 0.05% to 20% by weight of said mixed solution.

5. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 4, wherein said water-soluble compound is a nitrate or acetate of barium or calcium, and said raw material powder comprises Si or Al.

6. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 5, wherein the amount of said raw material oxide powder is less than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder.

7. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 5, wherein the amount of said raw material oxide powder is less than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is less than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder.

8. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 5, wherein the amount of said raw material oxide powder is more than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder.

9. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 5, wherein the amount of said raw material oxide powder is more than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is less than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder.

10. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of said raw material oxide powder is less than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder.

11. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of said raw material oxide powder is less than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is less than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder.

12. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of said raw material oxide powder is more than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is more than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder.

13. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid glass powder according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of said raw material oxide powder is more than about 45% by weight based on the total of the amount of said raw material oxide powder and the oxide-converted amount of said water-soluble compound, and the raw material oxide powder has an average particle size which is less than about 1/25 of the average particle size of said glass powder.

14 - 21 (Cancelled).